intimated that in July, 2001 bids were invited with out floor price for slots in Metro Channel. The slots offered were as follows:

7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m
8.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
9.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.
10.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.

The offers received for the above slots were too low and Prasar Bharati, after due consideration, has rejected the offers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati have informed that Hindi Programme are required to be slotted because of the requirements of Metro Channel during prime time. However, a provision was made for English Programmes in the time slot between 11.00 p.m. to 00.00 a.m. for which bids were invited earlier.

**News papers and periodicals registered with DAVP for advertisements**

1598. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of newspapers and periodicals registered with DAVP for the purpose of advertisements till 31.03.2001, language-wise; and

(b) the details of new newspapers and periodicals pending till 31.03.2001 for registration with DAVP, language-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) As on 31.3.2001, a total of 2723 newspapers and periodicals were empanelled with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) for release of advertisements. The language wise break-up is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) As on 31.3.2001, applications from 374 newspapers and periodicals were pending with DAVP for fresh empanelment. The language-wise break-up is given in Statement-II.

**Statement I**

*Language-wise number of Newspapers/Periodicals empanelled with the DAVP for release of advertisements as on* 31.03.2001.

| Sl.No. | Language | No. of Publications |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | English | 164 |
| 2. | Hindi | 1762 |
| 3. | Urdu | 201 |

| Sl.No. | Language | No. of Publications |
|---|---|---|
| 4. | Punjabi | 82 |
| 5. | Marathi | 78 |
| 6. | Gujarati | 89 |
| 7. | Sindhi | 16 |
| 8. | Assamese | 12 |
| 9. | Bengali | 103 |
| 10. | Oriya | 36 |
| 11. | Tamil | 53 |
| 12. | Telugu | 50 |
| 13. | Malayalam | 43 |
| 14. | Kannada | 22 |
| 15. | Sanskrit | 3 |
| 16. | Nepali | 4 |
| 17. | Mizo | 1 |
| 18. | Khasi | 2 |
| 19. | Konkani | 1 |
| 20. | Manipuri | 1 |
| | TOTAL: | 2723 |

**Statement II**

*Language-wise number of applications of Newspapers/Periodical spending for fresh empanelment with the DAVP as on* 31.03.2001.

| Sl.No. | Language | No. of Publications |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | English | 36 |
| 2. | Hindi | 191 |
| 3. | Urdu | 4 |
| 4. | Punjabi | 3 |
| 5. | Marathi | 23 |
| 6. | Gujarati | 18 |
| 7. | Sindhi | 0 |
| 8. | Assamese | 4 |
| 9. | Bengali | 10 |
| 10. | Oriya | 35 |

| Sl.No. | Language | No. of Publications |
|---|---|---|
| 11. | Tamil | 11 |
| 12. | Telugu | 16 |
| 13. | Malayalam | 05 |
| 14. | Kannada | 15 |
| 15. | Sanskrit | 0 |
| 16. | Nepali | 1 |
| 17. | Mizo | 1 |
| 18. | Khasi | 0 |
| 19. | Konkani | 0 |
| 20. | Manipuri | 1 |
| | TOTAL: | 374 |

**Services of I and B Units in the NER**

1599. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government for making available the service of Information and Broadcasting units in the North-East States, especially Manipur;

(b) whether Government have no plan to provide grants to the State Institute of Journalism, Imphal which was assured by the previous Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The Media Units under this Ministry have their regional/State presence in the North-Eastern States, including Manipur. Expansion of these services is an ongoing process and is subject to budget constraints.

For the Broadcasting Sector, Radio and TV coverage in North- East Region (including Sikkim) is presently estimated to be available to 93.75% and 82% respectively by population. Area-wise Radio and TV coverage in North-East Region is estimated to be 73.62% and 54% respectively. Radio and TV coverage in Manipur is estimated to be available to 80.4% and 67% by population and 48.3% and 32.1% by area.

In order to further improve AIR/Doordarshan coverage in the North-East States, a number of AIR projects and TV Transmitter projects of Doordarshan, as detailed in the Statement (*See* below) are presently under various stages of implementation.